

A NEW SPECIES OF *CERCOTMETUS* AMYOT & SERVILLE (HETEROPTERA: NEPIDAE) FROM LAOS

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Abstract.—*Cercotmetus minutus* n. sp. is described from Laos. A revised key to the species of *Cercotmetus* is provided.

Here we describe a new species of *Cercotmetus* from Laos. It is compared to other *Cercotmetus* species, and a revised key to the species of *Cercotmetus* is provided.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The description was prepared from a specimen in alcohol. Illustrations were produced with a camera lucida.

The specimen examined in the preparation of this work was loaned by the B. P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii (BPBM), the holotype repository. Comparative material used to prepare the key is held in the J. T. Polhemus Collection, Englewood, Colorado.

All measurements are given in millimeters.

Cercotmetus minutus, new species

Figs. 1-3

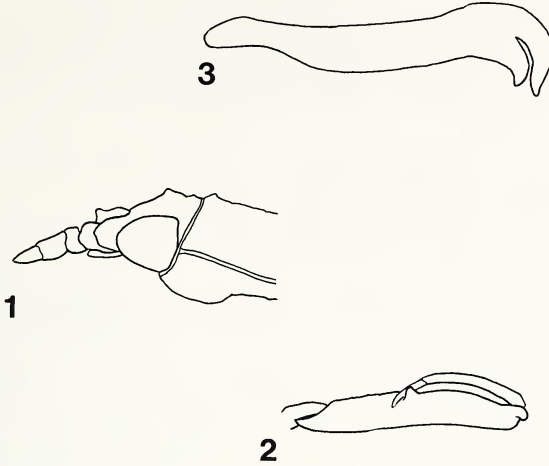
Diagnosis. *Cercotmetus minutus*, with a body length of 28 mm, is by far the smallest *Cercotmetus* species known. The only other known species to approach this length is *C. brevipes* Montandon which has a minimum known length of 32 mm. While *brevipes* and *minutus* both have the mesofemur shorter than the prothorax, *brevipes* lacks the pronounced tubercle on the vertex found in *minutus*, the interocular space of *brevipes* is 1.6 times eye width instead of subequal as in *minutus*, and *brevipes* is a much stouter species.

Description. *Size.* *Macropterous male*, length, 28.0 mm.; greatest width across humeri, 2.3 mm; length, respiratory siphon, 6.0 mm.

Color. Brown.

Structural characters. Interocular space ca. equal to eye width, IO = 1.95 mm, EW = 1.80 mm. Tip of clypeus turned up, appearing in lateral view to possess an anterior tubercle (Fig. 1). Antennae stout, with segment two short, lateral prolongation about ¼ that of segment three, the latter set with stiff setae distally. Anterior collar not prominent, slightly raised, with an inconspicuous blunt projection behind the eyes. Anterior pronotal lobe ca. 2.4 times as long as posterior lobe, humeri scarcely raised.

Prothorax long (8.4 mm), ventrally tricarinate, central keel commencing from between the procoxae, becoming evenly rounded and ending in a depression near pos-



Figs. 1–3. *Cercotmetus minutus*, sp. n. 1. Head, lateral view. 2. Profemur, tibia and tarsus. 3. Paramere.

terior margin, thickly set with microtrichia anteriorly, gradually becoming evanescent posteriorly; lateral keels weakly formed, reaching posterior margin.

Mesosternum evenly rounded between middle coxae, anterolateral margins with two (1 + 1) small dark nodules, barely raised. Metasternum weakly carinate, strongly emarginate posteriorly, median notch V-shaped; metaxyphus narrow, evenly curved posteriorly to an acute apex, mesocoxae twice as far apart as metacoxae.

Procoxae slightly more than $\frac{1}{3}$ as long as prothorax, length 3.0 mm. Profemur short (4.9 mm), median tooth short, located about in middle (Fig. 2). Meso- and metathoracic legs slender, without annuli, tibia set with a row of long swimming hairs. Mesofemur (7.2 mm) shorter than length of prothorax. Metafemur (8.4 mm) extending to ca. $\frac{3}{4}$ of fifth abdominal sternite. Hemelytral membrane large, evenly tapering posteriorly, reaching middle of sixth abdominal tergite.

Male operculum narrow, sharply carinate. Male paramere typical of *Cercotmetus* (Fig. 3). Respiratory siphon (6.5 mm) 1.65 times as long as sixth sternite, 2.64 times as long as operculum.

Female: unknown.

Etymology. The trivial name *minutus* refers to the small size of this species.

Distribution. Laos.

Types Holotype, ♂, LAOS, 10 km NW Vientiane; 10.vi.1972; C. W. Heckman coll. (BPBM)

REVISED KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *CERCOTMETUS*

(After Lansbury, 1973)

1. Vertex raised between the eyes but without a prominent tubercle. 2
- Vertex with a prominent tubercle 4
2. Body length not exceeding 42 mm; mesofemur clearly shorter than prothorax
- *C. brevipes* Montandon

- Body length not exceeding 47 mm; mesofemur longer than prothorax. 3
3. Eyes small, widely separated (interocular space/eye width ~ 2); profemoral tooth small, shorter than the distal width of the protibia *C. robustus* Montandon
Eyes larger (interocular space/eye width ~ 1.3); profemoral tooth larger, longer than the distal width of the protibia *C. dissidens* Montandon
4. Mesofemur shorter than prothorax *C. minutus* Keffer & Polhemus, n. sp.
Mesofemur longer than prothorax 5
5. Mesofemur not more than one fifth longer than prothorax 6
Mesofemur between one-third and one-half longer than the prothorax 7
6. Not more than 40 mm long *C. pilipes* (Dallas)
At least 48 mm long *C. fumosus* Distant
7. Mesosternum with a prominent keel *C. asiaticus* Amyot & Serville
Mesosternum not keeled 8
8. Respiratory siphon about twice as long as the operculum *C. strangulatus* Montandon
Respiratory siphon about three times as long as the operculum 9
9. Distal third of sixth tergite raised and often very hairy; meso- and metafemora with long hairs distad ventrally, with many (80–100) setae forming a thick brush on hind femora. *C. compositus* Montandon
Distal third of sixth tergite not unduly raised and never hairy; meso- and metafemora bare distad ventrally, sometimes with a few slender setae (ca. 25) in two sparsely set rows distally on hind femur only *C. asiaticus* Amyot & Serville

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